

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☒

Property Name: Circa 1910 Residence Inventory Number: D-745  
Address: East side of Bestpitch Ferry Road, south of Greenbrier Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no  
City: Cambridge Zip Code: 21613 County: Dorchester  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Blackwater River  
Property Owner: Jeffrey Williamson \* Tax Account ID Number: 003297 \*  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 12 \* Tax Map Number: 72\*  
Project: Proposed Tower Site: Bucktown, Dorchester County, Maryland Agency: Maryland Dept. of Budget and Management  
Agency Prepared By: A.D. Marble & Company  
Preparer's Name: Stacey Streett and Stephanie Foell Date Prepared: 6/24/2005  
Documentation is presented in: Proposed Tower Site: Bucktown, Dorchester County, Maryland  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no  
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

**Architectural Description:**

The residence at Bestpitch Ferry Road (D-745) is located at the end of a long farm lane. Access beyond the public right-of-way was not permitted as part of this survey. The residence is located on the east side of the road and faces south. The building was constructed circa 1910. It is a common vernacular form of a Folk Victorian I-house. The building is three bays wide by one room deep, with a projecting ell on the north elevation. A prominent, central cross gable is located on the façade of the second story. A full-width, one-story porch also dominates the façade.

The building has been altered since its original construction. The west elevation features a two-story, three-sided, bay window located under the gable. The ell of the building is three bays wide. A full-width, first-story porch enclosure is located on the ell. A recent, one-story, side-gable wing has been added to the north end of the west elevation of the ell, which adjoins the porch enclosure. The addition to the ell features a small, cross gable centered above a bay window. The projections of the ell and the modified porch form an irregular footprint.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

**MHT Comments:**

Andrew Lewis  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services  
[Signature]  
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/11/05  
Date  
7/11/05  
Date

200501970

The building is clad in replacement siding and the fenestration is comprised of replacement, double-hung, sash windows. Shutters flank the windows. A paired window is located in the apex of the west side gable. Asphalt shingles clad the roof. The eaves have a slight overhang. An interior, brick chimney pierces the ridge of the roof, and an exterior, brick chimney stack is located on the ell. However, the first story of the exterior chimney is enclosed within the recent addition to the end of the ell.

The agricultural parcel contains a variety of barns and outbuildings, which surround the residence. There are three, parallel, modern chicken houses and a metal-clad pole-barn located north of the residence. In addition, three, frame sheds are located around the modern outbuildings. Expansive crop fields are located north and south of the farm lane. Heavily wooded land is located east of the residence.

#### Significance

#### General Project Area Description

Bucktown, Maryland, is located in Dorchester County, approximately ten miles south of Cambridge. Bucktown is primarily an agricultural area that is adjacent to the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The terrain is relatively flat with the large majority of land used for agricultural purposes. The project area directly abuts the Little Blackwater River on the west, and much of the terrain is marshland in this area. The project area has a low level of elevation, approximately 5 feet above sea level.

Primary crops grown in Bucktown include corn and soybeans. Large industrial poultry houses of recent dates of construction are also present on several farms. Portions of the project area adjacent to the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge have a substantial tree canopy flanking the roadways.

#### History of Bucktown

Bucktown was formed from the land holdings of Bartholomew Ennalls. A native of York County, Virginia, Ennalls owned thousands of acres of land in southern Maryland in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Virtually no scholarly information exists on the establishment or development of Bucktown. It is largely ignored in scholarly histories of Dorchester County, and few primary or secondary resources relating to the town are available. A detailed review of maps of Dorchester County indicates that the name Bucktown first appears on maps in the late eighteenth century.

It is described as "five miles from a railroad station. A fertile farming country surrounds it. . . . about forty people in ten or twelve dwellings measure the size of the quiet town where the ring of the hammer on the blacksmith's anvil is no more heard. No town growth."

Tobacco was the primary crop cultivated in the area. It was exported to England for sale, and provided a certain degree of wealth to many of the tobacco plantation owners. After the onset of the Revolutionary War, when trade with England was suspended, corn, wheat, and rye plantings replaced tobacco as the most prominent agricultural crops. Livestock were also raised in larger numbers. The crops and animals were used for both home consumption and to supply the army. These crops remained the primary products planted until after the Civil War. After that time, grain crops became less common.

Bucktown is perhaps best known for its association with Harriet Tubman, a slave who was a critical figure in the Underground Railroad. Because Tubman was born into slavery, very little precise information about her early life is available. Consequently, much misinformation about Tubman has been disseminated throughout time. Reliable sources indicate that she was born circa 1820, possibly in or near Bucktown.

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

She spent her earliest years at the Brodess plantation, which was located just outside of Bucktown. Later, she moved with her owner to other locations within a ten-mile radius of Bucktown. Local tradition states that Tubman may have received a severe head wound that afflicted her for the rest of her life at the Bucktown Store in the 1830s. However, the present Bucktown store was not constructed until circa 1870, according to Dorchester County tax records, so the extant store could not have been the site of the encounter. Her family worshipped at Bazel's Chapel. The original building associated with Tubman's family burned and the present chapel was constructed circa 1911.

Tubman gained her freedom in 1849, when she escaped to Philadelphia. She eventually settled in Auburn, New York, where she established a home for elderly former slaves. Three buildings in Auburn with associations to Tubman have been designated National Historic Landmarks by the Secretary of the Interior. These include her own residence, the Harriet Tubman House, and the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged. The church where she worshiped in Auburn, Thompson AME Zion Church is also designated.

#### Historic Resources in Bucktown

Relatively few built resources are present within the Bucktown vicinity. This is due to the prevalence of large swaths of agricultural land in cultivation. The majority of buildings in Bucktown are residences. Almost all of the buildings more than 50 years of age are farmhouses from the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. Most of the residences retain their basic forms, which include I-houses and smaller cottages. Many of the residences have side or rear additions. Most have been re-sided in either aluminum siding or asbestos shingles. Replacement windows and enclosed porches are other common alterations. The conditions of the residences range from excellent to poor, with several near collapse.

Few historic agricultural buildings associated with the farmhouses remain (although several of the properties were inaccessible and only farmhouses were visible from the right-of-way). New agricultural buildings consist primarily of large-scale poultry houses sheathed in metal.

An abundance of houses dating from the late 1950s through the present are found in Bucktown. Most are modest, single-story houses with minimal architectural detail. These newer houses are located on small plots of land in linear patterns, unlike the houses of earlier eras, which were located on large plots of farmland.

Several modest frame chapels are located in the vicinity of Bucktown. They are associated with African-American congregations in the area.

The Bucktown Store is the sole resource associated with commerce in the area. As with other general stores in small towns, it likely served the town with basic supplies. However, Bucktown's proximity to Cambridge allowed for a reasonable commute into the larger city for commercial goods.

The historic and cultural landscape within Bucktown conveys the historic agricultural use of the land. Although historic crops in Dorchester County included tobacco and grains and not the currently omnipresent soybeans, the land has remained cleared and used for agricultural purposes. Other components of the landscape are used as part of the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge and appear to be in their pristine natural condition. Substantial sections of the region, most notably in the area surrounding the wildlife refuge, are covered with thick stands of tall trees.

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Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D\_\_\_E\_\_\_F\_\_\_G

MHT Comments:

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Determination of Eligibility**

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

The residence at Bestpitch Ferry Road is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not associated with any events that are important in the past. Therefore, it is not eligible under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any people important in the nation's past and is not eligible under Criterion B. The residence is a typical Folk-Victorian style I-house, a common house form throughout Dorchester County and Maryland. The building does not retain a high degree of integrity of design and materials due to alterations to the original house form and the installation of siding and replacement windows. The side porch has been fully enclosed, and a recent wing has been added to the ell of the building, modifying the original appearance of the building. The building has also lost its historic agricultural landscape due to the presence of new poultry buildings that dominate the site, diminishing the integrity of association of setting, feeling, and association. Therefore, the building is not eligible under Criterion C. The property was not evaluated under Criterion D.

**References:**

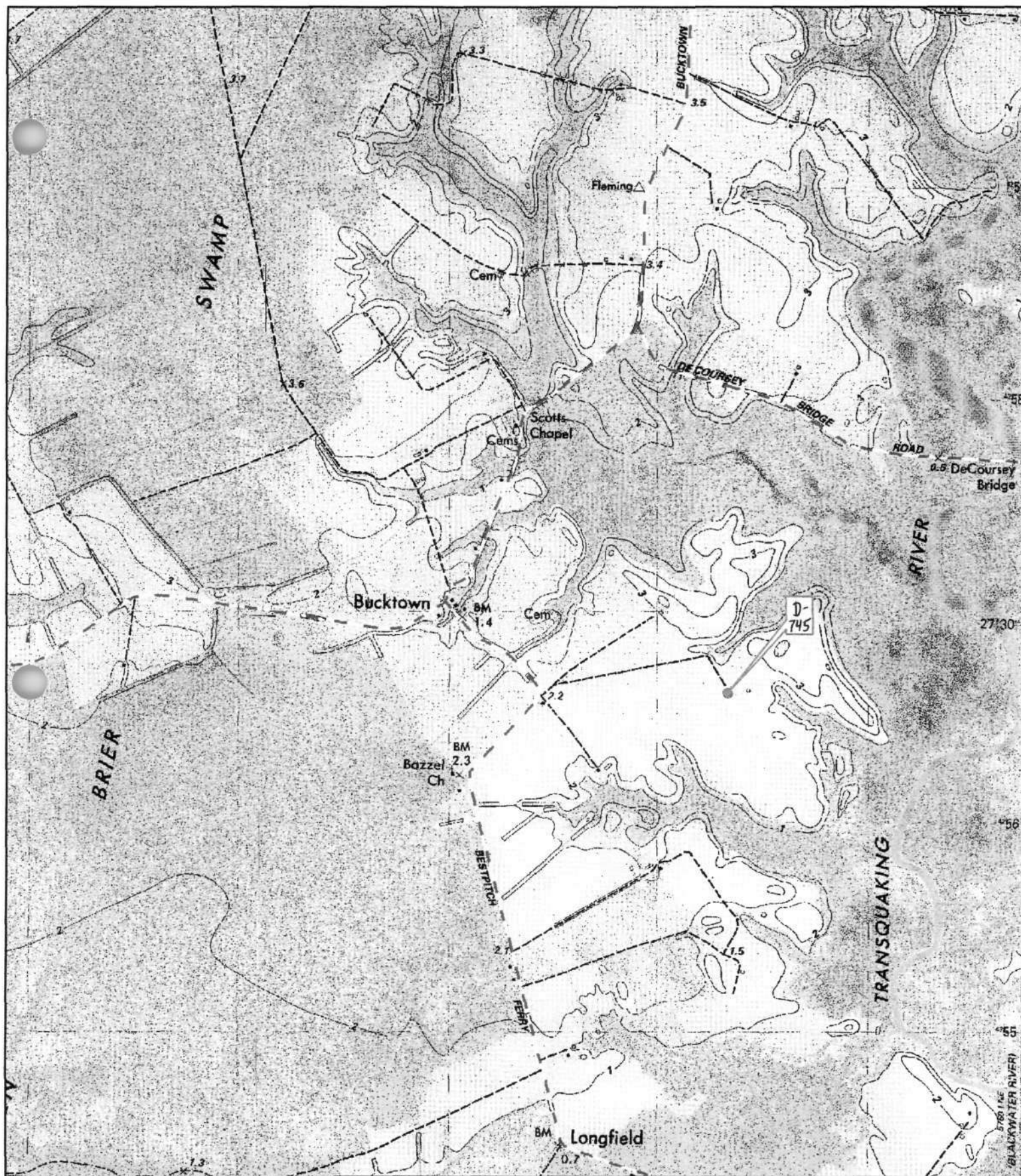
Maryland Historical Trust. Maryland Inventory of Historic Property Forms and National Register of Historic Places Forms for Bucktown and surrounding areas of southern Maryland.

Weeks, Christopher, ed. *Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank: An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press and the Maryland Historical Trust, 1984.

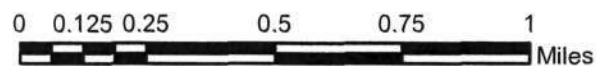
\*Note tax parcel information in question.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW****Eligibility recommended** \_\_\_\_\_**Eligibility not recommended** \_\_\_\_\_**Criteria:**    \_\_\_ A    \_\_\_ B    \_\_\_ C    \_\_\_ D    **Considerations:**    \_\_\_ A    \_\_\_ B    \_\_\_ C    \_\_\_ D    \_\_\_ E    \_\_\_ F    \_\_\_ G**MHT Comments:**\_\_\_\_\_  
**Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services**\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**\_\_\_\_\_  
**Reviewer, National Register Program**\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**





Circa 1910 Residence at Bestpitch Ferry Road (D-745)  
Proposed Tower  
Bucktown, Dorchester County, Maryland  
Blackwater River USGS Quadrangle





D-745

Ca. 1910 Residence, E. side of Bestpitch Ferry Rd.  
Dorchester County, MD

S. Streett

4/2005

MD SHPO

West elevation and outbuildings

1/3





D-745  
Ca. 1910 Residence, E. side of Bestpitch Ferry Rd.  
Dorchester County, MD  
S. Street  
4/2005  
MD SHPO  
Facade and outbuildings  
2/3

PRT-2611 <No. 24 >057  
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D-745  
Ca. 1910 Residence, E. side of Bestpitch Ferry Rd.  
Dorchester County, MD

S. Streett

4/2005

MD SHPO

Southwest elevation and outbuildings

3/3

ART-2611 <NO. 25 >058  
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